CATOCALA SPONSA L. (DARK CRIMSON UNDERWING) IN DORSET – A female of this local species was caught on the night of 11.viii. 1986 by my garden m.v. trap in Weymouth. This appears to be a new record for Dorset, although whether this specimen was an immigrant or vagrant remains uncertain. MICHAEL J. PARKER 9 East Wyld Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

DUSKY PEACOCK (SEMIOTHISA SIGNARIA HUBNER) IN WEST SUSSEX – On the night of the 28/29th June 1986, I took a specimen of this moth at my m.v. light in Worthing. At the time it was apparently only the third record of this species in the British Isles, though I have since heard of two others being taken during July in the South East, and possibly one other (not yet confirmed) from Steyning, which is also in West Sussex. – SEAN ODELL, 43 North Street, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1DU.

THE GOAT MOTH (COSSUS COSSUS L.) A CAUTIONARY TALE – The object of the exercise was to obtain, photograph, and rear through to the adult stage a larva of the goat moth (*Cossus cossus*). Preliminary research amongst entomological literature disclosed that it was, a) possible to hear the larva chewing inside the tree, and b) that bee-keeper's smoke puffed into the tunnels would enduce a larva to vacate its tree.

A tree currently inhabited by *Cossus* was duly located. It was a large, ancient oak in a very public place. Inability on our part to hear the larva chewing led us to approach our doctor – who keeps bees – and invite him to join an extraction expedition, bringing with him his stethoscope and bee-keeper's smoke apparatus. On arrival at the tree, he listened carefully with the stethoscope pressed to the trunk – to the amazement of passers-by – but could hear nothing. An enthusiastic application of smake at the entrance to a tunnel caused smoke to belch from numerous exit holes all over the base of the trunk, but nothing else emerged. Our efforts were, however, crowned with success when our imitation of a woodpecker attacking the tree caused a final instar larva to exit hastily.

The larva was borne home in triumph, housed in a rectangular glass aquarium with heavy plastic netting on the top, and given a fresh log on which it fed happily for several weeks. Then one afternoon when relaxing after lunch in a room on the other side of the house from the site of the aquarium, something tickled my arm. There on the arm of the chair, looking rather forlorn, sat our *Cossus* larva! Investigation revealed a ladder of silk climbing the aquarium wall, and a hole chewed in the netting cover. The runaway was incarcerated again, this time covered by plate glass. During the autumn it ran for several days, then disappeared into the sawdust provided for the purpose. The aquarium was placed in an outhouse for the

winter, but in order to prevent mould forming, the plate glass was replaced by stainless steel gauze weighted down by two bricks. The following May the contents of the aquarium were examined with a view to photographing the cocoon and pupa – but the inhabitant was nowhere to be found. In order to escape, that larva had lifted steel gauze and two bricks. The moral of this story is – if you wish to keep a larva of *C. cossus* safely in captivity, use a container built on the principle of Colditz Castle. M. BROOKS 7 Milton Road, Wimbourne, Dorset.

COMMOPHILA AENEANA (HUBN.) (LEP.: COCHYLIDAE) IN KENT– I took a specimen of this local and scarce moth in my garden on 30. vi.1986. It was flying, in bright sunshine, amongst hoary ragwort (*Senecio erucifolius*). The larva is said to feed in the rootstock and lower stem of common ragwort (*S. jacobaea*). There are very few confirmed localities for this moth in Kent. MELVYN CROW 9 Sandpiper Road, Whitstable, Kent.

ACLERIS LORQUINIANA DUP. (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE) IN SOUTH DEVON – On 5.viii.85 I took a specimen of this moth near Beer in South Devon. There is every reason to suspect that this and other records from the South coast for this species are indicative of resident populations. Certainly many spots on the coast of West Dorset and East Devon exhibit "fen" like conditions wherever fresh water springs break through the strata of the cliff and undercliff. Between Charmouth and Sidmouth *Phragmites* is locally dominant and *Lythrum salicaria* is generally common. Other wetland insects regularly seen in the area include *Chilo phragmitella* Hubn., *Mythimna obsoleta* Ochs., *Photedes pygina* Haw., *Rhizedra lutosa* Hubn. and *Arenostola phragmitidis* Hubn. P. J. BAKER, Mount Vale, The Drive, Sandhills Lane, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4BP.

EPERMENIA AEQUIDENTELLUS (HOFMANN) (LEP.: EPERMENIIDAE) ON PIMPINELLA SAXIFRAGA – On 17th September 1986 at Kynance Cove, Cornwall I found several *Epermenia* larvae mining leaves of *Pimpinella saxifraga*, which on 7th and 9th October produced *E. aequidentellus*. This species has previously been recorded in the British Isles only from *Daucus carota*, although it is known from *P. saxifraga* on the continent. R. J. HECKFORD, 67, Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth.

RECORDS OF DIASEMIOPSIS RAMBURIALIS (DUP.) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) FOUND BY DAY. – Goater (*British Pyralid Moths – A Guide to their Identification:* 90) states that this species does not appear to have been recorded by day in Britain. I have taken two specimens, both by day: the first sitting on low vegetation in bright sunshine at Tregantle, Cornwall during the afternoon on 20th